

**From:** Hal & Gloria Lindstrom <woodlind@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 09, 2014 3:59 PM  
**To:** SEPADesk2 (DFW)  
**Subject:** DNS 13-082

January 9, 2014

Bob Zeigler  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WSWF Regulatory Services Section  
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia WA 98501-1091  
[SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov)

RE: DNS 13-082 Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area Seasonal Road Closure

Dear Mr. Zeigler:

The current WDFW's Whiskey Dick winter motorized vehicle restriction has had a positive effect on elk for numerous winters. It has been a good thing so why make any changes that would negate this positive effect?

The description of the proposal is to restrict the use of motor vehicles within portions of the Whiskey Dick Winter Range which sounds good and then half way down the paragraph it says, except for a single road. It continues to state the intent is to provide increased protection and security for wintering big game and continues to provide facts that elk and motorized traffic don't work. This makes no sense.

The proposal further contradicts the effects of roads on elk movements that have been studied for decades. Scott McCorquodale, WDFW's Deer and Elk Specialist, in 2013, summarized the results of numerous studies that road effect on large mammals were predominately negative.

This proposal will have a negative effect on the elk, the road, and the resource.

1. This is the winter range for the elk. The ability of noisy vehicles to go anywhere on or off the roads (which they do with frequency) creates added stress to the elk during the winter season. No one is there to monitor the usage.
2. The proposed road passes across terrain that is classified as low suitability and passes adjacent to a stream potentially degrading a sensitive area.
3. The 2013 Tarp Fire has decreased forage for the elk which will likely promote more movement south. They don't need added stress.
4. Numbers of elk have increased and they are wandering to private farm lands in search of feed. Road noise in their winter range may create a greater problem.
5. Road opening in the winter may create more vandalism to public and private property.

Opening the road to motorized recreationalists makes no sense when keeping the road closed has worked. There are numerous other roads available to them. If it is shed they are after, they can

hike into the area.

How can WDFW determine ?that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment? and ?therefore state law does not require an EIS?. No mention is made of the adverse effect on the wildlife that habitat the area! And why would WDFW provide so little time and during a busy Holiday Season for public response to open the road from north to south along the eastern border of Whiskey Dick?

Please do not set precedence for opening roads into wildlife habitat during winter. Instead establish a precedence to make winter closure time in the Whiskey Dick Winter Range at least five months long beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Protect the environment and the wildlife!

Sincerely,

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C:

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